

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-706

January 6, 2004

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
System Expansion Reporting for  
Authorized Natural Gas Local  
Distribution Utilities

ORDER CHANGING  
FILING REQUIREMENTS

WELCH, Chairman; DIAMOND and REISHUS, Commissioners

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**I. SUMMARY**

In this Order, we change the filing requirement for natural gas local distribution utilities (LDCs) to file System Expansion Reports annually instead of semi-annually. Beginning in 2004, the reports will be due on April 1 of each year.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On September 25, 1998, we issued an order in this docket detailing the contents of the System Expansion Reports that would be due every six months in accordance with our Order dated August 17, 1998 in *Central Maine Power Company, Request for Approval to Furnish Gas Service In and To Areas Not Currently Receiving Natural Gas*, Docket No. 96-786. We required all LDCs to report on October 1 and April 1 of each year, on their then completed and anticipated system development activities to occur within the following year. We allowed confidential treatment of these reports and issued a Protective Order on September 25, 1998.

LDCs have filed their System Expansion Reports consistent with these requirements since the order was issued.

**II. FILING REQUIREMENTS**

We have received reports from the LDCs for approximately five years. After reviewing these reports and following discussions with the LDCs, we have determined that the changes in their plans from April 1 to October 1 are generally not sufficient to continue to require the reporting every six months. Due to the weather conditions between October 1 and April 1, the LDCs perform only limited construction activities. Therefore, we will require only an annual filing of the System Expansion Report due on April 1 of each year.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2004.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR:      Welch  
   Diamond  
   Reishus

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5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

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